

# *Church News ~ August 2021*

St. Paul's UMC ~ Republic Trinity ~ Melmore UMC ~ Sycamore UMC ~ Union Salem UMC

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WORSHIP IN THE NORTHERN CIRCUIT**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Happy August! I cannot believe those words, even as I type them. I feel like we just got into summer and soon we will be preparing for Fall. I urge you (and I remind myself) to soak up every ounce of sunshine and summer that you can this month...before you know it, we will blink, and it will be Thanksgiving and we will be heading into the Christmas season.

Recently, all the churches in our cooperative parish were preparing to welcome guests at "Come and See" open houses. Several of these will have already taken place by the time you are reading this note.

As part of those preparatory conversations, people were asking me when I began serving at this church or that church and when Pastor Amy and I began working together in team ministry. These conversations made me think back on my first days of ministry. At that time, I was praying that the Firelands District Superintendent would find any sort of appointment for me. I was praying that God would find a place for me in a church so that I could serve God.

*20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

*Ephesians 3:20-22*

In my prayers I was asking God to make a way for me to pastor within a church setting. Little did I know the plans that God had in store. Just as the words of Ephesians above, God is able and does do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

My prayers asked for a place for myself in ministry...God's plan was for me to co-pastor five churches with Pastor Amy. My prayers asked for a local church setting that included young people...God's plan included ministry with young people that would include taking kids to Youth Annual Conference and co-sponsoring a community wide vacation bible school, witnessing beloved young people commit their lives to Christ through baptism and confirmation.

As we enter into this new season of cooperative ministry, I don't know what your prayers are for our churches. What I do know is that God hears our prayers and God is able and will bless us immeasurably in God's time.

Pastor Amy and I are leaning forward in faith, excitedly waiting to see God's plans unfold. We challenge you to be in prayer for all five of our churches, for the lay leadership and for your pastors.

*<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11*

***Blessings ~ Pastor Charlene***

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WORSHIP IN THE SOUTHERN CIRCUIT

This summer has been a truly wonderful time in worship. In June, we had a combined service with St. Paul's and Republic-Trinity at Melmore UMC for Father's Day. Because of the heat, we worshiped in the Fellowship Hall, but that worked out well since we had a wonderful time of fellowship afterwards eating boxed lunches and visiting with folks that we hadn't seen in awhile. We also had a wonderful time celebrating our graduates on June 25<sup>th</sup> (see pic below).

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, Pastors Charlene and Amy joined together for a combined worship with Union-Salem and Sycamore and then on July 11<sup>th</sup>, our new worship times and Pastor Amy's "circuit-riding" with her trusty Honda Civic began.

During the month of August, we will be continuing a sermon series entitled, "Letting Go" and we will be finding time at each church for a Backpack Blessing before the kids (and teachers and staff) return to school this fall.

Also, coming up, Pastor Charlene and Pastor Amy will be swapping pulpits on August 15<sup>th</sup> so that each of us can maintain a connection to all of the churches in our cooperative parish (check out the article "Two by Two" in this newsletter for more information about what it means to have two pastors).

Additionally, on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, Loren Atkins, member at Union-Salem UMC will be bringing the message at the Old Mission Church in Upper Sandusky and the congregation will be worshipping there at 8 am that morning.

~ Pastor Amy



### Greetings from St. Paul's

#### Missions Committee:

Thank you to all who assisted with the dinner and/or contributed desserts for Karen Kinstler's funeral dinner.

We are continuing to collect a Third Sunday Ingathering (yellow buckets) which is sent to First Call for Help. The amount collected in July was \$70. Missions Committee will meet again in September to discuss and vote on distribution of Leeann Wolf funds.

We started our Open Houses on Saturday, July 17 by visiting Union Salem and Sycamore UMC's. We heard their history, saw pictures, and toured their churches. They both sponsor some very neat events and have invited all of us to attend. Pastor Amy promises that these events will be advertised on a calendar in advance so that we do not miss out. Despite the rain, it was a cheerful meeting of new friends. Our last three Open Houses will start at 10:00 a.m. at Melmore, 11:00 a.m. at Republic, and 12:00 noon at St. Paul's on Saturday, August 7. We will conclude with a light lunch at St. Paul's. One fact that I found remarkably interesting is that from these few churches located in an extremely limited area, there have been two missionaries, one to Indonesia and one to Africa.

Thank you, Church, for your continued support of our missions.

~ Denise Lawson, St. Paul's Missions Committee

#### Melmore Mission Corner:

At Melmore, we continue to collect pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House as well as used medication bottles which are then repurposed for American soldiers overseas. Regarding the pop tabs—all aluminum tabs can be collected, so if you use canned cat food with aluminum pull tabs, for example, those may be collected as well. Medication bottles should be washed and have the label removed before donation. If you are not a



Melmore UMC member, and would like to add to our collection, you may give your pop tabs and/or medication bottles to either Pastor Charlene or Pastor Amy and we will make sure that they get where they need to go.

## **Blessing Box Installed at Trinity in Republic**

This past May, after being contacted by the Seneca County Leadership group, a Blessing Box was installed at Trinity in Republic. These boxes were built by the Leadership group as a service project and brought to several area locations with the permission of the organizations. They are designed to hold non-perishable food items along with hygiene and paper products, as well as seasonal items like pencils (for school supplies) or mittens. The church keeps the box stuffed with items and anyone in need can come along and take what is available. This is a wonderful way for the church members to be able to help those in the community who are struggling in an immediate and tangible way.



## **Sabbath and Time Away**

If you talk to Donna McConahay or Kathy Daniel (Pastor Charlene's or Pastor Amy's mother), they will tell you that neither of these pastors take enough time off. And to be fair, Pastor Charlene and Pastor Amy would probably admit (most days), that they are right—especially if it is at the end of a full day of pastoring.

During annual conference, members voted to make changes to the current leave policy that brings all pastors, whether licensed local, associates, or elders to the same level of vacation and time away as it was recognized that this was a more fair and equitable policy. It was noted on the conference website that "a clergyperson who is responsible for a pulpit should preach no more than 45 Sundays per year plus special service and holidays. Adequate days are enumerated in the policy so that clergy have the entire week off when they take a Sunday of vacation."

The Board of Ministry chair, Jon Priebe, also emphasized during his remarks that pastors need to take a keep their Sabbath each week as it is critical for their spiritual health to spend time away. It is, unfortunately, far too easy for pastors to let go of that time and to become depleted in the process.

In order to support each other and to take and keep their Sabbath time, Pastor Charlene and Pastor Amy will be covering for each other on their weekly days off. Thus, when Pastor Charlene is off on Fridays, Pastor Amy will cover any needs that arise at Republic-Trinity and St. Paul's. Conversely, when Pastor Amy is off on mostly Thursdays, but occasionally a Monday (to accommodate for a meeting scheduled on Thursday once a month), Pastor Charlene will cover Melmore, Sycamore, and Union-Salem. To help people remember, their days off will be noted on the newsletter calendar as well as the church bulletins and phone numbers for each pastor will be published in both documents as well as in other locations.

And if you catch either pastor "cheating" on their Sabbath, feel free to gently remind them just how important it is that they get their rest!

~ *Pastor Amy*



## “Two by Two” - What It Means to Have Two Pastors

It is noted in both the gospels of Mark and Luke that Christ sent out the disciples two by two. Christ knew that ministering to His flock was difficult work and that those who were called to this vocation would need the support of each other. And although many pastors support each other, we, because of the unique nature of our connected ministries, get to support each other A LOT.

And that is a good thing. It means, as you may have already read, that when we have a day off, or a family emergency, or we are simply stretched too thin, that we already have someone who can fill in that we know and trust with our church members. It also means that when we do fill in for each other, that there is a better chance that we will already know the church and its members.

In our years of ministry together, we have covered for each other when our own family members have died, when we have been sick or had surgery, and when we have found ourselves in need of being two places at once in order to be the best ministers that we can be that day.

And yet, it means so much more than that. It means that there is always someone to bounce ideas off of, or simply ask questions that we don't know the answers to. It means that when we come up with crazy but amazing ideas, we have someone to help us brainstorm and work through the details. It means that when there are big events, we often both attend and participate. It means that sometimes we even get to sing together (one of our favorite things). It means that when there are cool things happening at one church, we help to spread the word to others. And in general, it helps us to be more efficient and to do more for all the churches in our cooperative parish.

Look for more in-depth information about some of the really awesome advantages of having two pastors in upcoming additions of this cooperative parish newsletter in the coming months.

~ *Pastor Amy*



**This month, on August 12<sup>th</sup>, Sycamore UMC will be hosting its annual ice cream social from 4:30-6:00 pm. They will be serving hot sandwiches, including shredded chicken and sloppy joes, potato & macaroni salad, baked beans, pies, and root beer floats. Everyone is invited to join us.**



The last time I spoke with Karen Kinstler, she asked me to do her a favor and make sure that her appreciation and gratitude of the kindness shown to her was communicated. The following words are her words. ♡

~ *Cheryl Armstrong, St. Paul's UMC*

### ***A special message:***

*I would like to say, "Thank You!" for all the things people have done to help make this a special time. My St. Paul's family, including those in South Florida, as well as friends from high school have sent cards, meals and gift cards and it has been overwhelming and wonderful.*

*Life is so good and special.*

~ *Karen Kinstler, St. Paul's UMC*



**Pictures from the “Come and See”  
that was held at Sycamore  
and Union Salem UMC’s**



# SOULs

Senior Outreach Uniting Lives

# Connecting

ARE YOU A SENIOR, OR DO YOU KNOW A SENIOR, WHO STRUGGLES WITH PREPARING HEALTHY MEALS?

SOULs CONNECTING CAN HELP!

WE ARE A COOKING CO-OPERATIVE MINISTRY, OFFERING HOME COOKED MEALS MADE FROM FRESH INGREDIENTS.  
COMPLETE MEAL (FOR 1) ~ \$5.00  
QUART OF SOUP ~ \$3.00

**CONTACT: St. Paul's UMC Office**  
ph 419-447-1743  
or  
**Pastor Charlene**  
ph 567-207-0553

If you feel lead to participate in this ministry, please contact Pastor Charlene.

Made with PosterMyWall.com

**Call the secretary at St. Paul's UMC office,  
419-447-1743, to hear the selection of  
meals/soups that are available and to schedule a  
time to pick up meals and/or soup.**

## *Birthday Celebrations for August*

1 – Jackie Combs – Melmore  
4 – Dennis Weaver – Melmore  
6 – Heather Shuff – Sycamore  
7 – Linda Benfer – Melmore  
8 – Don Schilling – Union Salem  
12 – Mark Maybee – Melmore  
13 – Donna May – Melmore  
13 – Donna Ziegler - Melmore  
16 - Jeff McDannell – Melmore  
17 – Wanda Druckenmiller – Melmore  
19 – Emily Bloom – Melmore  
19 – Jane-Ann Clarke – Melmore  
21 – Mackenzie Brown – Melmore  
21 – Marilou Hill – St. Paul's  
22 – Sherry Barth – Union Salem  
23 – Ryan Hoffert – Melmore  
23 – Brenda Luhning – Melmore  
23 – Aaron Marker – Melmore  
24 – Ricky Dible – Melmore  
24 – Pastor Charlene Thomas – St. Paul's

25 – Linda Hetzel – Melmore  
26 – Amie Bonham – Melmore  
26 – Ann Harry – St. Paul's  
27 – Kathy Daniel – St. Paul's  
27 – Erica Nye – Melmore  
27 – Helen Pool – Union Salem  
28 – Kristy Retting – Melmore  
30 – Andrew King – Melmore  
31 – Sandra Cooper – Melmore  
31 – Stephen Correll – Melmore



## *Anniversary Celebrations for August*

15 – Russ & Agnes Edgington – Union Salem  
23 – Jason & Mindy Fox – Melmore



If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed in the newsletter, please email St. Paul's secretary with your information at [secretary@tiffinstpauls.org](mailto:secretary@tiffinstpauls.org) or call the office at 419-447-1743.

Any information to be printed in the newsletter needs to be submitted to the secretary no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Thank you!



# YOUTH GROUP

The St. Paul's Youth Fellowship group traveled to Williamstown Kentucky to visit the Ark Encounter. Eight of our youth and five adults were blessed to go on this trip! The youth learned many new things about Noah and his family as they prepared for and spent many days on the ark during the great flood. The youth were amazed at the faith of Noah, and he lived out his call from God. Thanks to all who supported the youth fundraisers so that our youth could go on this learning adventure!

~ Pastor Charlene



(Yes, youth leaders and momma's get frustrated and tired too.....)





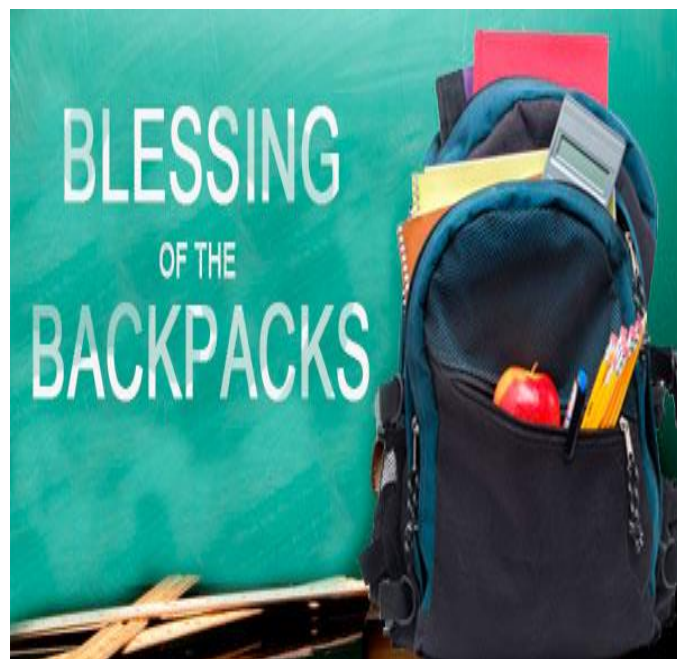


**St. Paul's UMC Lunch Bunch**  
**Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**12:00 noon**  
**Buffalo Wild Wings**

We are having lunch in Tiffin at Buffalo Wild Wings in the garage open air area, so it is like a picnic atmosphere with everyone choosing what they want and paying for what they chose.

Please RSVP Jeff at 419-939-3791 by Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, all family, and friends are welcome.

~ *Jeff Kuhn & Sharon Rigby*



During their normal worship service, all five churches will be holding a special time of "*Blessing of the Backpacks*" on Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please join us and bring your backpacks for this time of special blessing.

If you have any cares or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Charlene and/or Pastor Amy.

God Bless you!

*Pastor Charlene Thomas 567-207-0053*

*Pastor Amy Vittorio 419-443-5763*

If you would like to have something (birthday, anniversary, special event, ministry update, etc.) printed in the Church Newsletter, which includes all five churches, please email St. Paul's secretary at [secretary@tiffinstpauls.org](mailto:secretary@tiffinstpauls.org) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month. Thank you.

~ *Joyce Randell, Secretary St. Paul's UMC*

